

William Kelly

We are privileged to have William Kelly in residency for 3 weeks in September. He is an American born artist and human rights advocate who first visited Australia on a Fullbright Fellowship in 1968 and settled in Australia in 1974. He went on to become the Dean of the Victorian College of Arts and has been a guest lecturer at Yale, Oxford and Cambridge Universities as well as other institutions in Europe, South Africa, USA, Eastern Europe and Australia.

'William's work is well known internationally as a humanist artist with his art often being part of a dialogue in transition from war or oppression to newfound civil society He is the only visual artist to be given the prestigious Courage of Conscience Award (Boston USA) – other recipients include Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr, Muhammad Ali and John Lennon. In 1998 he was invited to create a work for the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights International Print Portfolio, for which the forward was written by Kofi Anan. His landmark book *Art and Humanist Ideals* (Macmillan) outlines the contribution of contemporary artists to the dialogue on significant issues of our time'. ¹William's work has 'been engaged consciously and purposefully with ideals of conscience and intentions of social betterment that have been rarely, and only marginally, addressed by mainstream contemporary artists and institutions'.²

He is the recipient of an OAM for services to Visual Arts and Urban Design and is a Founding and Honorary Life Member of the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art. He has exhibited in over 20 countries and is in numerous public collections including the Australian National Gallery, United Nations Collection (Geneva, Switzerland), Guernica Museum (Spain), Museum of Modern Art at Heide, and the Durban Art Gallery (South Africa)

¹ <http://rightnow.org.au/artwork/William-kelly-looking-toward-a-better-world/>

² Godwin Bradbeer, artist